Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide selective programming based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

recognizing said current user with an interface in said personal remote control unit,

establishing an identification of said current user based upon the recognition data supplied to said remote,

communicating said identification of said current user to said set-top box,

assigning preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box,

controlling the video output of said set-top box by controlling video content based on said preference and profile data within said current user database.

2. A method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling the video output of said set-top box by controlling said video content based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

3. A method of claim 1 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

4. A method of claim 1 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

5. A method of claim 1 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

6. A method of claim 1 wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream prior to being input into said set-top box.

7. A method of claim 1 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

8. A method of claim 1 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

9. A method of claim 1 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

10. A method of controlling displayed video and data utilizing a remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide enhanced content based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

recognizing said current user with an interface in said personal remote control unit,

establishing an identification of said current user based upon the recognition data supplied to said remote,

communicating said identification of said current user to said set-top box,

assigning preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box,

controlling the interactive output of said set-top box by controlling said video content based on said preference and profile data and on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

11. A method of claim 10 wherein the step of controlling the interactive output of said set-top box by controlling said video content based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

12. A method of claim 10 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

13. A method of claim 10 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

14. A method of claim 10wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

15. A method of claim 10wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream prior to being input into said set-top box.

16. A method of claim 10 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

17 A method of claim 10 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

18. A method of claim 10 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

19. A method of controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide selective programming based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

recognizing said current user with an interface in said personal remote control unit,

establishing an identification of said current user based upon the recognition data supplied to said remote,

communicating said identification of said current user to said set-top box,

assigning preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box,

controlling the video output of said set-top box by controlling video content based on said preference and profile data and by comparing tags that are placed in the video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

20. A method of claim 19 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

21. A method of claim 19 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

22. A method of claim 19 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

23. A method of claim 19 wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream prior to being input into said set-top box.

24. A method of claim 19 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

25. A method of claim 19 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

26. A method of claim 19 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

27. A method of controlling displayed video and data utilizing a remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide enhanced content based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

recognizing said current user with an interface in said personal remote control unit,

establishing an identification of said current user based upon the recognition data supplied to said remote,

communicating said identification of said current user to said set-top box,

assigning preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box,

controlling the interactive output of said set-top box by controlling said video content based on said preference and profile data and on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

28. A method of claim 27 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

29. A method of claim 27 wherein the recognition of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

30. A method of claim 27wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

31. A method of claim 27wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream prior to being input into said set-top box.

32. A method of claim 27 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

33. A method of claim 27 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

34. A method of claim 27 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

35. A system for controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a personalized remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide selective programming based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

an ID input device within said remote to determine the identity of said current user,

a communication link between said personalized remote control and said set-top box for transmission of said identification of said current user to said set-top box.

said set-top box that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that controls the video output by controlling video content based on said preference and profile data within said current user database.

36. A system of claim 35 wherein the of control of the video output of said set-top box by controlling said video content is based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

37. A system of claim 35 wherein the ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

38. A system of claim 35 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

39. A system of claim 35 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

40. A system of claim 35wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream.

41. A system of claim 35 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

42. A system of claim 35 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

43. A system of claim 35 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

44. A system for controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a personalized remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide enhanced content based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

an ID input device within said remote to determine the identity of said current user, a communication link between said personalized remote control and said set-top box for transmission of said identification of said current user to said set-top box.

said set-top box that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that controls the interactive output by controlling said video content based on said preference and profile data within said current user database.

45. A system of claim 44 wherein the of control of the interactive output of said set-top box by controlling said video content is based on comparing said tags placed in said

video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

46. A system of claim 44 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

47. A system of claim 44 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

48. A system of claim 44 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

49. A system of claim 44 wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream.

50. A system of claim 44 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

51. A system of claim 44 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

52. A system of claim 44 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

53. A system for controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a personalized remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide selective programming based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

an ID input device within said remote to determine the identity of said current user,

a communication link between said personalized remote control and said set-top box for transmission of said identification of said current user to said set-

top box.

said set-top box that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that controls the video output by controlling video content based on said preference and profile data within said current user database, and that further controls said video output by controlling said video content based on comparing tags placed in the video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

54. A system of claim 53 wherein the of control of the video output of said set-top box by controlling said video content is based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

55. A system of claim 53 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

56. A system of claim 53 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

57. A system of claim 53 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

58. A system of claim 53wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream.

59. A system of claim 53 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

60. A system of claim 53 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

61. A system of claim 53 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.

62. A system for controlling displayed video and data content utilizing a personalized remote control device that interacts with a set-top box to provide enhanced content based upon the identity of the current user of said personal remote control comprising,

an ID input device within said remote to determine the identity of said current user, a communication link between said personalized remote control and said set-top box for transmission of said identification of said current user to said set-top box.

said set-top box that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that assigns preference and profile data corresponding to said current user to a current user database within said set-top box, and that controls the interactive output by controlling said video content based on said preference and profile data within said current user database, and that controls interactive output by controlling said video content based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

63. A system of claim 62 wherein the of control of the interactive output of said set-top box by controlling said video content is based on comparing said tags placed in said video stream that indicate content of said video stream to said preference and profile data within said current user database.

64. A system of claim 62 wherein the ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on a physical attribute of said current user.

65. A system of claim 62 wherein said ID input of said current user of said remote control device is based on an intellectual attribute of said current user.

66. A system of claim 62 wherein said profile data is empirically derived from the usage patterns of said remote control device by said current user.

67. A system of claim 62 wherein said video content is pretagged to indicate content of the video stream.

68. A system of claim 62 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key words.

69. A system of claim 62 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key images.

70. A system of claim 62 wherein said tags are created in real time by video recognition techniques utilizing key sounds.